

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VI., No. 139.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 1916.

WHOLE NUMBER 1677.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY CEASE

Expected That Pres. Wilson Will Convey to Congress Desire to Break Off All Negotiations With Germany

Washington, Feb. 23.—President Wilson's appearance before congress within the next few days to announce a desire to break off diplomatic relations with Germany was forecasted today by high administration authorities.

This action is certain to result, one official said, if German intimations are correct that Foreign Secretary von Jagow's instructions to Ambassador von Bernstorff will be to play for further delay in settlement of the Lusitania case and for a long discussion of technicalities in the matter of the German proclamation of warfare against armed enemy merchant ships.

The von Jagow instructions are expected to reach von Bernstorff within the next two days.

An authority, generally regarded as reliable, declares that the president intends to make his refusal to temporize in the situation so emphatic that no doubt can remain as to his purpose to require closing of the Lusitania incident according to his original demands.

Since Germany is not expected to withdraw her armed merchantman decree, it was pointed out that the only course left open to the president is to cut off diplomatic relations.

This would mean handing Ambassador von Bernstorff his passports and the consequent withdrawal of Ambassador Gerard from Berlin.

It is declared that President Wilson is committed to a policy of firmness, but does not desire to take the step of breaking relations without first presenting the matter to congress.

This idea is said to explain the long conference Monday night between President Wilson, Senate Leader Kern, Chairman Stone of the senate foreign committee, and Chairman Flood of the house foreign committee.

These persons have not discussed the subject of their conference except that one conferee indicated his own personal apprehension that certain of the courses considered might lead to war.

The idea of breaking diplomatic relations is said to explain, too, why Senator Stone called off his projected speech in defense of the administration foreign policy.

SWIFTS WILL STOCK OREGON CATTLE RANCH

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Pendleton, Ore., ranch owned by the Louis F. Swift interests will be stocked with 10,000 beef cattle, it was announced today. A high standard of cattle will be maintained and only the increase in the herd will be sold annually.

The Swift offices stated that the Pendleton ranch is the only one in the west recently acquired by Swift.

FOURTH ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE SUCCESSFUL

Portland, Feb. 23.—The fourth method by which Mrs. Julia Rohalt, 30 years old, tried to commit suicide yesterday proved successful, and she is dead today.

Apparently going insane, she took several bromide of mercury tablets. Then she drank carbolic acid. She slashed her wrists and throat with a knife, and then hanged herself to a rafter in her bedroom.

"LITTLE BOB" AND BURTON THROW HATS IN RING

Madison, Wis., Feb. 23.—Senator LaFollette will leave for Washington tonight after having formally announced his candidacy for the presidency.

He refused to discuss his campaign plans, but important legislation now pending in congress probably will make it impossible for him to do any campaigning in Wisconsin until spring.

LaFollette's candidacy was announced at a dinner given in his honor last night.

Columbus, O., Feb. 23.—Former Senator Theodore E. Burton today announced his candidacy for the republican nomination for president. A Cincinnati man, with Burton's consent, filed with the secretary of state an announcement that he is a candidate for delegate to the national convention as a Burton supporter.

BATTLE IS RAGING ON 15-MILE FRONT

Paris, Feb. 23.—German forces are staging a strong offensive around Verdun, it was officially admitted today. Many regiments of infantry are attacking along a 15-mile front. This is the sector commanded by the German crown prince.

The German attack on this strategic point in the south is apparently being pushed without heed to loss of life, for German prisoners declare that whole German battalions have been annihilated.

French evacuation of the Haumont forest was admitted, but the communiqué claimed reoccupation of the Caures wood, which was evacuated yesterday.

Fierce attacks continue, too, in the Bois-Givency region near Souchez, and the French have succeeded in recapturing several trenches.

The onslaught of the German crown prince's men in the Verdun region followed artillery preparation which began Sunday. The French replied to the Teuton efforts, and brought up reserves to combat them.

Through particularly vicious attacks, the Germans succeeded in occupying the Haumont woods, and they broke the French salient north of Beaumont and 10 miles northeast of Verdun.

The general offensive, begun last night, was designed to throw back the whole French line on the Verdun front, positions the Teutons long have envied. A tremendous fire tore down their ranks and inflicted large losses.

SHORTAGE OF CARS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Portland, Feb. 23.—Because of the acute shortage of cars, all movements of grain in the Pacific northwest have ceased. Purchasers of grain declare they will cease operations entirely until they are assured of transportation facilities.

STANDARD OIL TO CUT BIG MELON

San Francisco, Feb. 23.—With gasoline prices ascending to luxurious heights, the Standard Oil company of California is preparing today to distribute a 50 per cent stock dividend at its regular stockholders' meeting March 15. The 50 per cent "melon" rated on the present quotations means distribution of more than \$93,000,000, though an authorized by the state corporation commissioner at Sacramento the dividend is \$25,000,000.

HURL FRENCH LINES BACK AT VERDUN

German Troops, Under the Leadership of the Crown Prince, Gain Important Victory Over Allies in West

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

London, Feb. 23.—The German crown prince, dealing the greatest smash on the western front since breaking the English Ypres lines last May, has taken nearly six and one-half miles of French trenches near Verdun, the Berlin war office claimed today.

This extensive offensive was aimed against the outer defenses of the important fortifications of the town of Verdun in the neighborhood of Conzevoye and Azannes, about 10 miles to the north.

There the Germans not only claimed their enormous gain of ground, but they announced they had taken 3,000 prisoners and much booty.

Following up this reputed victory, they claimed that in another offensive move they had captured 700 yards of French trenches east of Heidelelle in Alsace and 80 prisoners.

How terrible was the German drive was evidenced from the Paris admission that there had been a great offensive around Verdun, and that the Germans had been killed off by battalions. Paris claimed that while the Haumont wood had been evacuated, the French had regained the Caures wood, from which they had been evicted yesterday. Breaking of the French salient north of Beaumont and 10 miles northeast of Verdun was admitted. Recapture of some trenches around Souchez was claimed by Paris.

No attack of similar strength has been delivered on either side in the western combat for months, excepting the French offensive in the Champagne in September. The battle is still raging about 10 miles from Verdun on the east bank of the Meuse, with the crown prince aiming to force his army southward in the hope of conquering all the outer defenses of Verdun and then bringing up his 42 centimeter guns to level the forts.

Such a move would give the Germans a great advantage in the south, as the French have threatened their communications by retaining the Verdun stronghold.

(By United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Feb. 23.—Suggesting a parole for the 14 ironworkers' union officials convicted at Indianapolis of dynamiting, Senators Kern, Ransdell, Husting, Lewis and Clapp and Congressman Nolan today showed President Wilson that the men had stayed in Leavenworth beyond the time in which a parole could be granted. The president said he would take up the matter with the justice department.

(By United Press Leased Wire.) Los Angeles, Feb. 23.—Banditry here took on a new turn before noon today when highwaymen in a rear "pirate car" appeared on Los Feliz road, pursued the machine of Attorney O. L. Anderson, spattering it with bullets, robbed the lawyer and his wife and dashed away after smashing his auto so he could not use it to spread the alarm.

Anderson walked to Glendale and notified the sheriff's office. While a posse was getting ready to go to the scene, another telephone call came from Huntington Park, on the other side of town. The "pirate car" gang had just appeared there, given chase to another machine, robbed its occupants and vanished. According to the story told by Anderson, the bandits are reckless and desperate. When he first heard them behind him he crowded on all speed, whereupon three or four of the thugs opened fire. Their auto overhauled his with ease. He described it as a powerful, black car, carrying no lights and no numbers.

ALLIES CAN WIN GROUND IN GERMAN AFRICA

(By United Press Leased Wire.) London, Feb. 23.—The allies have conquered 730,000 square miles of German Africa since the war started, according to announcement in the house of commons today.

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TURKS FLEE BEFORE THE RUSSIANS

Ottoman Empire Troops Are Removing Valuables From Trebizond, and Fall of the Latter City Is Expected

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Petrograd, Feb. 23.—On their march to Trebizond, Russian vanguards have reached a point within a few miles of Rizeh. This town is only 35 miles east of Trebizond, and the fall of the latter is not far distant, according to Tiflis dispatches today.

Armenians, fleeing from the Christian quarter of Trebizond outside the walls of the city, arrived at the Russian lines and reported that the Turks are removing the valuables from the city, evidently with no intention of making serious resistance to the Slav onslaught.

"We are continuing the pursuit of the remnants of the Turkish forces," said the war office today.

Announcement of fresh successes in the Caucasus with demonstrations in the duma, preceded publication of an official statement relating that the Russians had won skirmishes on nearly every sector from the Baltic to Roumania.

This statement told of violent artillery firing over the Dvina sector and of numerous enemy aeroplanes throwing bombs in the Riga region. One hundred and fifty occupants of a German trench in the Dvinsk sector west of Lake Sventen were annihilated in a reconnaissance attack, while in the Smorgen district the Slavs occupied some enemy trenches. Mine blasts in the Bucacz region of Galicia wrecked Teuton positions for a considerable distance.

SEEK PAROLE FOR 14 CONVICTED DYNAMITERS

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CHINESE GUNMAN KILLS YIN LUCK IN THE TONG WAR

Portland, Feb. 23.—A Chinese gunman shot and killed Yin Luck, 20 years old, at 3 o'clock this morning, when Yin came out of a restaurant in the heart of the Chinese district to sweep the sidewalk.

A taxicab driver gave chase to the highbinder who did the shooting and drove him into the arms of a policeman three blocks away. He gave his name as Ah Low, said he was 44 years old, and desired to speak to his attorney. He spoke excellent English and was well dressed.

The shooting of Yin Luck is the third disastrous clash between tong gunmen in Portland since war broke out between the Hop Sings and an alliance of the Bow Leongs, Bing Kongs and Suey Sings.

In Chinatown the orientals remained behind bolted doors. But this morning for the first time in history a gunman invaded the business district of the city to do his deadly work. Supposing the tong war fully ten blocks away, Yin Luck, a janitor, boldly went on the open sidewalk after sweeping out a restaurant. The highbinder was hiding in a dark doorway. He fired once and Yin Luck dropped. Placing the muzzle of his revolver at the prostrate man's head, the tong man again pulled the trigger. Then he fled, pursued by a taxicab driver.

This happened while negotiations were in progress for peace. Tongmen asserted yesterday that a truce had been declared.

"Bunk," said Captain of Detectives Baty, and doubled his force of plain clothes men in Chinatown.

The killing of Yin Luck happened after two preliminary peace meetings had been held with District Attorney Evans presiding. The only trouble with the peace meetings yesterday afternoon and last night was that they were held in Hop Sing quarters and the enemies of the Hop Sings would not come.

The "Chinese Fords" from San Francisco were expected in Portland today and may be able to arrange a permanent peace. But the shooting of Yin Luck and the murder of another Chinese in Roseburg yesterday makes peace seem far away.

"PIRATE CAR" RUNS DOWN AUTO PARTY

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DROWNS IN ROGUE AT ALMEDA

Edgar Batty, Mining Man, Washed Off a Make-Shift Bridge Upon Which He Was Crossing River Tuesday

Edgar Batty, a well known mining man of the Galice district, was drowned in the Rogue river Tuesday afternoon, at about four o'clock, near the Almeda mine. Mr. Batty was crossing the river on the improvised bridge at the Almeda when he lost his footing and was washed off into the stream. The bridge there is a narrow affair without railing, and at the present stage of water is covered to a depth of a few inches, and it is thought likely that some of the covering had washed away, allowing Batty to walk off into the river. At low water the bridge swings only about three feet above the surface of the stream, and is anchored by cables to keep it from being washed away in higher water. It was built by private interests to facilitate crossing at the Almeda, but was always considered a dangerous affair.

Mr. Batty resided about one and one-half miles above the Almeda, on the same side of the river, but to reach the mine often crossed at his own place in a boat, then came down the road and crossed back again over the bridge. He was a married man, and leaves a wife and several children. He was about 60 years of age. The body had not been recovered at last report.

NINE WERE KILLED IN NEW HAVEN WRECK

New York, Feb. 23.—Investigation to determine responsibility for the wreck on the New Haven railroad near Milford, Conn., yesterday, was undertaken today. Evidence thus far gathered pointed to a disregard of signals. Final figures showed nine dead.

GERARD ON THE JOB WITH BROKEN COLLARBONE

Berlin, Feb. 23.—American Ambassador Gerard appeared at the embassy today after having his collarbone re-set at the hospital, following an accident at Munich. He probably will be unable to be actively at his desk for the next six weeks, but will supervise affairs of the embassy.

ASQUITH STATES TERMS OF PEACE

(By United Press Leased Wire.) London, Feb. 23.—Not only must Belgium be restored completely, but Serbia must recover more territory than she has lost, and Prussian militarism must be completely destroyed before England consents to peace, Premier Asquith declared in the house of commons today.

In answering the query of Philip Snowden as to England's peace terms, Asquith repeated the famous Guildhall pledge of November, 1914, for the restoration of Belgium and the removal of the menace of militarism, but made this important addition:

"Serbia must also recover more than she has lost and the military domination of Prussia must be finally destroyed."

This statement, interpreted as meaning that the Serbians will get the Balkan territory which they claim as theirs, was greeted by cheers.